

JONESBORO Debate
Sept 15, 1858

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The Lincoln-Douglas Debates 1858

Jonesboro, Illinois
Sept. 15, 1858

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

IN THIS ILLINOIS TOWN EVERY ONE LIVES TO A RIPE OLD AGE.

Special Correspondence of The Inter Ocean.
JONESBORO, Ill., Aug. 26.—If Josiah Allen's wife should come down into "Egypt" she might write a story about Jonesboro similar to the one of the "live forever" spring at Saratoga watering place and the old gentleman who, after living 100 years, asked to be taken away so that he might die, and then, upon being taken back for burial, raised up in his coffin and rebuked his son for returning him there, remarking sadly that he "was in for another hundred years."

In Jonesboro, a village of 1,500 inhabitants, there are about forty citizens who have lived long past the allotted age of man, some of them nearing the century mark, and many of them natives of the town in which they still reside. But, unlike the old gentleman of Saratoga, these venerable old people are content with their surroundings and are not asking to be taken away somewhere to die. They have health and strength; they have lands and money; they have prosperous children, and hearts that are still able to enjoy living in this picturesque region, where high wooded hills and deep, forest fringed ravines are all about. Some of these people were far past middle age when the rattle of the railway train first superseded the creaking of the ox cart in "Egypt."

Being children of the pioneers who had to dispute with the Indians and wild beasts the possession of their first homesteads, these

people grew up thrifty, sturdy, and healthy, and have lived to see their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren surrounded with modern luxuries and conveniences such as were undreamed of in the parents' childhood days.

The Oldest Woman.

The oldest of this remarkable company of old people is Mrs. Catherine Rendleman, who was 91 years old last January. Her maiden name was Hunsaker. She is a daughter of one of the pioneers of southern Illinois and was born on the place on which she still resides. Her husband was D. H. Rendleman, with whom she lived for sixty-five years, until death separated them. He was born in Rowan county, North Carolina, in 1801. Nearly all of the pioneers of Union county were North Carolinians. Mrs. Rendleman is the mother of twelve children—nine girls and three boys.

Another person who has twenty years of borrowed time behind him is Daniel Hileman, who will be 91 years old in November. He is a son of Henry Hileman, a native of North Carolina, who came to Union county in 1819 and settled near the present site of Jonesboro. Mr. Hileman is a bachelor and has lived at the Roberts hotel in Jonesboro for many years. He retired from business fifty years ago a wealthy man. He is rather feeble now, but still is able to get around. Mr. Hileman says he is beginning to feel at home on this terrestrial ball and expects to remain here for some time yet.

Mrs. Rachel Frick, widow of Caleb Frick,

is now in her 87th year. She also was born among the "Ozarks" of Egypt, only a short distance from her present residence. Her husband was born in Rowan county, North Carolina, in 1809, and came to Jonesboro in 1825. They were married in 1835. He was a merchant in Jonesboro for many years. Mrs. Frick's parents were Archibald and Nancy Morgan Biggs, Kentuckians, who were also among the Union county pioneers.

Born at Jonesboro.

Another old lady who has lived to within fifteen years of the century mark is Mrs. Nancy Frick, widow of Paul Frick. She is the last of twelve children of Robert Hargrave and his wife, Catherine (Hunsaker) Hargrave. Her grandfather, John Hargrave, was a native of South Carolina. Her grandmother Hargrave, whose maiden name was Catherine McNeal, was born in Scotland. They came to Illinois in 1809. Mrs. Frick's parents were married in 1812 and settled two miles south of Jonesboro, where she was born and brought up. Her husband died seven



OLD JONESBORO SCHOOL, FORMERLY THE UNION HOTEL, IN WHICH LINCOLN AND DOUGLAS WERE ENTERTAINED AT THE TIME OF THEIR DEBATE IN 1858

years ago, and she now lives with her granddaughter on the old homestead in Jonesboro.

John Grear, widely known in southern Illinois, has been one of the mainstays of Jonesboro for many years. He was born one and one-half miles south of Jonesboro in March, 1824, and for fifty years has conducted a jewelry store and repair shop in Jonesboro. He is ex-mayor of the town, and has always been prominent in its affairs. His parents were natives of North Carolina, and were among the pioneers of Union county, settling near Jonesboro in 1819. His grandfather, John H. Grear, was a native of Germany and a graduate of Edinburgh university. His father was very wealthy. He landed in America while the revolutionary war was being fought and immediately entered the American army as surgeon. The present Mr. Grear's father, George Grear, enlisted in the regular army at the age of 14, and served through the Creek and Seminole wars. The Grears are all musicians, and there has

Some Other Old Folks.

James Craver and sister, both past 80, live together in Jonesboro, whither they came from North Carolina in 1827. Neither has ever been married.

Mr. and Mrs. David Sowers are also both past the fourscore mark. They were born in North Carolina and came here in early life.

Paul Miesenheimer is another native of Jonesboro. He was born here in 1820. His wife was born in Germany and is a few years younger than her husband. Mr. Miesenheimer and Mr. John Grear are cousins. They made a crop together near Jonesboro



*MRS. CATHARINE RENDLEMAN
AGE 91 YEARS*

never been a time in the family history when there was not a physician in the family. Mr. Grear is a tall, well preserved, fine appearing old gentleman of great intelligence and force of character. His wife died several years ago. There were four children, all boys, two of whom are living. One, Harry, a druggist at Cairo, fell down a stairway at his home a few weeks ago and was killed. His son Sidney died several years ago at the age of 30 years. He was the best cornet player in southern Illinois, and had just proved himself one of the brightest lawyers in the state by winning a complicated case.



MRS. CAROLINE ROBERTS

seventy years ago.

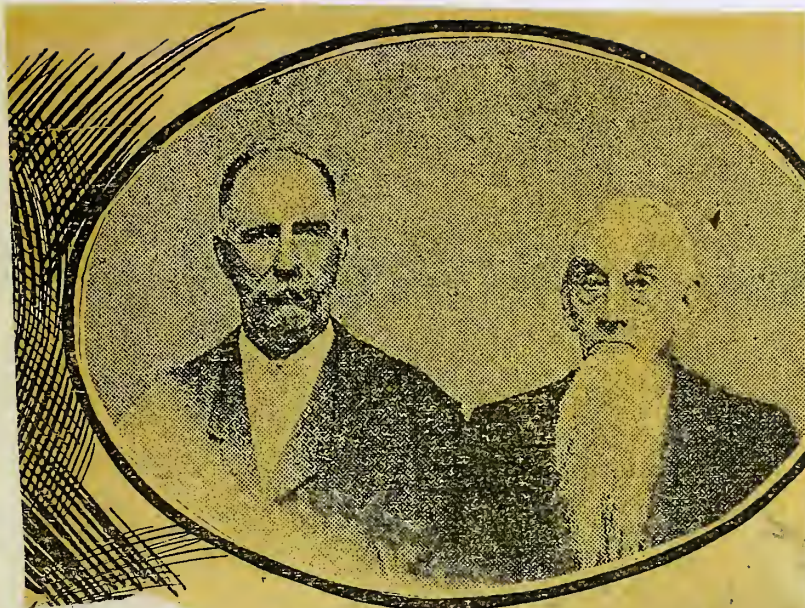
Mrs. Harriet Lingle was born in Union county in 1828 and has been a resident of Jonesboro for fifty years. The Lingle family is one of prominence in Union county.

George Williams, a wealthy, retired merchant, has lived in Jonesboro since 1839, forty years in the same house. He was born in Tennessee. His father, Gabriel Williams, was a mechanic and builder and erected all of the first good houses in Jonesboro. Gabriel Williams had a large family and moved to Jonesboro from Tennessee with an ox team.

Charles Klutts and wife have lived in Jonesboro since 1851, are natives of North Carolina, and celebrated their golden wedding this month.

Mrs. A. J. Nimmo widow of Colonel Nimmo of the One Hundred and Ninth Illinois regiment, is a prominent resident of Jonesboro, a native of the town, and is past 80 years of age.

Mrs. Caroline Roberts was born in 1821. She has had charge of the Roberts hotel, the principal hotel in the town, for eighteen years.



"JEFF" URY - DANIEL HILEMAN

Green Miller and wife, John Hollenback, Mrs. Rebecca Gear, and David Nusbaum are other noted octogenarians of this picturesque little city.

Jefferson Ury, a boy of 64, a man of affairs there, says he has been in three wars.

"Aren't you young to have served in so many wars, Mr. Ury?" he was asked.

"Well, you see," he replied, "I was in the civil war and have been married twice."

The First Settlers.

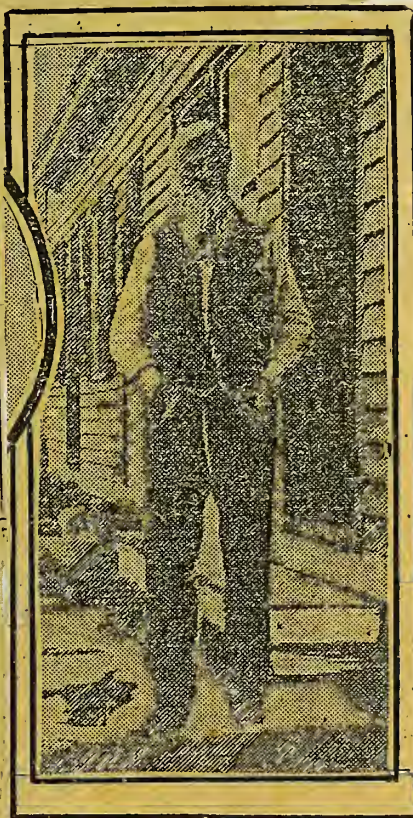
The first settlers at Jonesboro were Abram Hunsaker and George Wolf, who came down the Ohio and up the Cache rivers in 1803, hunting and fishing. They camped one night near the present site of Jonesboro and found game so plentiful and the country altogether so pleasant that they set about building cabins, sent for their families, and established homes. For two years they were the only white settlers in all this region. John Grammar was the next white settler within the present Jonesboro precinct. Grammar was the first Territorial Representative from this district and the first State Senator from Union county. He helped

compile the first state laws of Illinois. He had no education, but he possessed a mighty physique and intellect and a character as solid as a rock. His vocabulary was of his own creation, and was no infringement whatever on Webster's dictionary. He was the "terror of the politicians and the hope of the people." His rule to vote against a measure about which he was uninformed made him known everywhere.

Among the landmarks of Jonesboro is the old home of Lieutenant Governor Daugherty.

Jonesboro gets its name from an early settler named Jones, a Baptist preacher. Jones and George Wolf, a Dunkard preacher, met after having conducted separate revivals, and agreed to hold union meetings. The seal of the county represents these preachers shaking hands; hence the name of the county, Union. The first county order was issued to Samuel Penrod for a wolf scalp.

Among the pioneers of this region were Dr. S. S. Condon, Thomas Finley, Winstead Davie, Dr. B. W. Brooks, the Willards, Judge



JOHN GEAR AND THE SHOP IN WHICH HE HAS WORKED FOR FIFTY YEARS

Daniel Hileman, Jacob Hunsaker, John McIntosh, James Provo, Mrs. Nancy Hileman, Richard Young, and the Fields, the Shavers, the Hargraves, and the Rendlemans. The descendants of these pioneers are now found in all parts of Uncle Sam's domain and in all walks of life.

LINCOLN LORE

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SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATES

JONESBORO, SEPTEMBER 15, 1858

Jonesboro, the site of the third joint debate between Lincoln and Douglas, is in the extreme southern part of the state, in the section of Illinois commonly called "Egypt." It is but ten miles from the Missouri line, twenty miles from the Kentucky line, and about thirty-five miles from where the Ohio River flows into the Mississippi.

In 1858 the town had a population of about twelve hundred, the nearest railroad being one and a half miles away. The debate took place at the fair grounds a little north of the town where a platform had been erected for the speakers. Douglas came to Jonesboro from Cairo where he had spoken the day before. Lincoln, arriving on Tuesday, and was the guest of Mr. Dresser, although it is said that both Lincoln and Douglas made their headquarters at the Union House.

Wednesday, September 15, was hot and sultry and a very small crowd of not more than fifteen hundred people gathered for the debate. There was little enthusiasm manifested and no demonstrations such as had been observed at both Ottawa and Freeport were attempted. On this occasion Douglas was the first speaker and followed the usual procedure of occupying one hour, after which Lincoln spoke for one hour and a half; and then came the Douglas rejoinder of one-half hour.

Speech of Douglas

Introduction

Debates arranged to discuss leading political topics which agitate the country (paragraph 1).

The old Whig and Democratic parties transformed (2-5).

Lincoln and Trumbull combined efforts to abolitionize both parties (6-8).

These two men changed their principles to suit different parts of the state (9-13).

Political history of Trumbull and Lincoln (14-19).

Argument

A. The "House Divided" Question.

Lincoln's speech containing phrase "a house divided against itself cannot stand" (20-21).

Lincoln is inviting warfare between the North and South to make all states uniform in their local and domestic institutions (22-23).

The government was formed on the principle of diversity in their local institutions and laws and not on that of uniformity (24).

B. Racial Equality.

Dred Scott decision right; negro not capable of self government (25-26).

Reference in Declaration of Independence to "all men" being created equal means "all white men" (27).

Status of negro in different states (28-31).

C. Popular Sovereignty.

Each state has the right to do as it pleases without meddling with its neighbors (32).

Reason for opposing the LeCompton Constitution (33).

The great mission of democracy is to unite fraternal feeling of whole country and restore peace and quiet by teaching each state to mind its own business (34).

We should act as our fathers did who made the government. There was no sectional strife. They were all brethren of a common confederacy. (35).

Speech of Lincoln

Rebuttal

No inclination to interfere with domestic institutions in the states, including slavery (paragraph 1).

Question of slavery not where the Fathers placed it but original policy has been changed by Judge Douglas and associates (2-5).

No bargain whatever with Judge Trumbull (6-7).

Argument

A. The Compromise of 1850.

Douglas right in that both parties agreed about finality of the compromise (8).

It did not repeal the Old Missouri Compromise (9).

Question put to Douglas: "Why, when we had peace under the Missouri Compromise could you not have let it alone" (10-11).

B. The "House Divided" Question.

The variety of institutions based on natural elements in the states do not make a house divided but are the props which hold it up (11-12).

There has always been trouble with slavery, especially when an effort has been made to spread it into a new territory (13).

Is there reason to expect that agitation over slavery will cease until it shall be placed back where it originally stood or until it shall master all opposition (14-15)?

C. The Democratic Resolutions.

The Springfield Democratic platform and the responsibility of a candidate towards political resolutions of his friends (16-19).

Interrogations and answers of Thomas Campbell (20-32).

Resolutions subscribed to by R. S. Maloney, Democratic nominee for Congress (32-44).

Resolutions at the Democratic Convention at Naperville (45-48).

Editorial in DeKalb County Sentinel on equality of blacks and whites (49-52).

Resolutions passed in Douglas's home state, Vermont (53-57).

D. Interrogatories.

First question put to Douglas at Freeport is not answered by an equivalent yes or no (59-60).

Second question in which Douglas claimed slavery could lawfully be excluded from a territory by withholding legislation or by unfriendly legislation discussed by Lincoln as follows (60-64):

a. How can any power exclude slavery from a territory without violating the Constitution which expressly recognizes property in slaves as indicated by Supreme Court (64)?

b. Did not Judge Douglas say the question of excluding slavery was to be decided by the Supreme Court and does he not now advocate that it is not a question for the court but for the people (65-66)?

c. The proposition that slavery cannot enter a new country is historically false as illustrated by case of Dred Scott (67-68).

d. Can an official swear to support the Constitution of the United States, guaranteeing the right to hold slaves, and then withhold legislation for the purpose of defeating that right, and clear his oath in so doing (69)?

e. Is not Congress itself bound to give legislative support to any right that is established in the Constitution (70-71)?

Lincoln presents the fifth question in his series of interrogations and comments upon it (72-77).

E. Personal References.

Statement that he (Lincoln) had to be carried off platform at Ottawa alluded to (78-81).

Douglas's threat to "trot me down to Egypt" (82).

Discusses ethics of methods Douglas is using to make people feel that I (Lincoln) am in his clutches (83).

Mr. Douglas's Rejoinder

Remarks about Lincoln being carried from the platform said in a playful manner (paragraphs 1-2).

Lincoln's reply to question about voting any more slave states into the Union; says Lincoln will not answer directly (3-8).

Can prove that Trumbull and Lincoln were in political bargain (9).

Campbell's and Maloney's resolutions repudiated (10-11).

Lincoln's own party is a house divided again itself (12).

Personal reference to Lincoln's Indiana and Kentucky environments and his own Vermont experiences (15).

Lincoln's fifth question answered as follows: "There should be no interference and no intervention by Congress with slavery in the states and territories" (16).

If the people of a territory want slavery they will have it, and if they do not want it you cannot force it on them (17-21).

Taken from "The Centennial History of Anna, Illinois", 1954

Lincoln-Douglas Debate, September 15, 1858

Perhaps the most noted political event that ever occurred in Union County was the great Lincoln-Douglas Debate of September 15, 1858.

Mr. Lincoln reached Anna from the north probably about 2 o'clock in the afternoon of September 14, 1858. (Douglas named Jonesboro as the point where the joint discussion should occur in the 9th Congressional District.) A. J. Phillips, citizen of Anna, son of D. L. Phillips, who in 1858 was the candidate for the Republican party for Congress in the 9th District, said his father told him that Lincoln did not want to come to Jonesboro to debate, as he thought there was no chance to elect any of the Republican candidates from that region to the general assembly. But D. L. Phillips and Mr. Lincoln were great friends and the former prevailed on Mr. Lincoln to come.

Mr. Lincoln was accompanied by Mr. Horace White, D. L. Phillips of Anna, and probably Robert R. Hitt, the shorthand reporter. A. J. Phillips, who was 11 years old at the time, said his father entertained Mr. Lincoln, and he remembered the occasion in all its details. The elder Phillips had an office in a two story frame building about where the Miller Opera House was (Now site of the Anna National Bank Building) and the party spent some time in the office. Later Mr. Lincoln went to the home of Mr. Phillips (Site of C. R. Wals^{er} property on South Main today) on the north side of Main Street from Anna to Jonesboro and remained the night. Mr. Hitt and Mr. White went to Jonesboro and stayed at the Union Hotel, which was located on the

east side of the square.

In all probability Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Phillips were at the hotel for some time in the evening for Mr. White, who later moved to New York, wrote the historian as follows: "The only things I recall at Jonesboro were not ~~the~~ political and not even terrestrial. It was the splendid appearance of Danti's comet in the sky, the evening before the ~~date~~^{debate}. Mr. Lincoln greatly admired this strange visitor, and he and I sat for an hour or more in front of the hotel looking at it. The country people came into the little town with ox teams mostly and a very stunted breed of oxen, too. Their wagons were old fashioned and looked as though they were ready to fall to pieces."

On the morning of the 15th Dr. McVean, a prominent Democrat who lived near Mr. Phillips, offered to take Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Phillips out driving. Mr. Lincoln consented. Dr. McVean was quite a horse fancier and drove a fine span of matched geldings. When they were ready to start, young Phillips was asked to accompany them. The four drove over to Jonesboro, around the town and westward along the picturesque road leading to Willard Landing on the Mississippi River. They returned and Mr. Lincoln made some calls, one of them at the home of Mrs. Hacker, daughter-in-law of Col. John Hacker.

Mr. A. J. Phillips said they returned to Anna for an early dinner and within a short time the village was startled by the roar of a cannon. Everybody rushed to the station and a large crowd welcomed the Little Giant Douglas.

Slight preparations were made for the event due to political rivalry. The debate occurred half a mile north of the square of Jonesboro, and is marked today by an inscribed stone on the site.

The debate was without incident. The audience was indeed very small. No one has estimated it more than 2000, while the reporters

placed it at 1500. The correspondents for the city papers spoke of a good delegation from the State Fair at Centralia and a good sized crowd from Cairo. Mr. White said: "My impression was that the audience at Jonesboro was rather stolid, and took little interest in the questions discussed but that it was composed of honest, well meaning, old fashioned folks. I do not think Lincoln made any converts at Jonesboro; I doubt if Douglas made any or even held his own."

Mr. Lincoln was described by Prof. Joseph E. Terpiniz, band leader, as a tall, odd-looking man walking along with his hands behind him. He wore a tall plug hat, rather long-tailed coat and was a person who would attract attention in a crowd. He seemed in deep meditation, walking with his head down". Douglas, on the other hand, was a model of the then fashions for men.

100 YEARS AGO

from the Tribune and other sources
For Your Historical Scrapbook

Sept. 14, 1858: On the eve of the Lincoln-Douglas debate at Jonesboro, a county seat in "Egypt," THE TRIBUNE says:

"In every county, the Republicans are daily gaining strength, and a more courageous, hopeful body of men than the supporters of Lincoln cannot be found. Our opponents have been clearly convicted of being a party of pro-slavery propaganda, the enemy of free labor and the rights of all white men except the slaveholders. Thousands of citizens have found Republicanism to be made up of the best principles of the fathers and sages of the Republic. Let our friends relax nothing of their zeal and watchfulness and our triumph will be signal and complete."

Re-Enact 3d Lincoln-Douglas Debate

By Justin Fishbein
Sun-Times Staff Correspondent

JONESBORO—Abraham Lincoln took his courage in hand 100 years ago and totted down to Egypt.

Monday is the centennial of his third debate with his Democratic opponent for the U.S. Senate, Stephen A. Douglas.

But here on the southern slope of the Illinois Ozarks the debate was re-enacted Friday as a climax to the second annual Illinois forest festival.



The Lincoln-Douglas debate sites.

Fewer than 1,000 persons witnessed the re-enactment.

The crowd, however, was not much smaller than the 1,500 folks who came to the fairgrounds in 1858 in ox-drawn wagons.

The debate site now is a few steps from the district office of the U.S. department of agriculture's forest service. It is part of the Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois 327 miles south of Chicago.

Jonesboro and Union County in 1858 had not many more than 1,000 residents, mostly first-generation descendants of pioneers from North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky. A few had

come from New England.

Thomas Ford, governor from 1842-46, described them as "poor white folks." He continued:

"Our southern settlements presented but few specimens of the more wealthy, enterprising, intellectual, and cultivated people from the slave states."

"Those who did come were very good, honest, kind, hospitable people, unambitious of wealth and great lovers of ease and social enjoyment."

In the 1820s, the early pioneers had witnessed a steady trek of southern families hounded for Missouri with slaves in tow, the sight prompted them to wage a battle, unsuccessful in the end to make Illinois a slave state.

In Union County, that battle was led by Alexander P. Field who later became an Illinois secretary of state, and John Grammer, a territorial legislator and later state senator.

A Pioneer Bred In Poverty

Grammer was a rough-hewn pioneer, so poor that womenfolk sold nuts to buy enough material to make him a suit worthy of the territorial legislature.

Jonesboro had fostered other men prominent in early Illinois. John Reynolds, who became governor, practiced law here; and Daniel P. Cook, who was the first Illinois attorney general and for whom Cook County is named, presided over the first session of the Union County court.

That session occurred in 1818, the year Illinois was admitted to the Union but 15 years after the first settlers had arrived in Union County.

Two families "braving the wilds, the dense forests and its almost impenetrable undergrowth," settled near the headwaters of the Cache River. Those were the families of Abram Hunsaker and George Wolfe.

Though many Hunsakers migrated to the area, Abram vanished in history. Wolfe, however, held several county offices and became a preacher in the Church of the Brethren, popularly called Dunkards.

How Union County Got Its Name

Around 1810, Preacher Jones arrived, shouting the faith of the primitive Baptists. The Dunkards and Baptists joined in an interfaith revival after which the ministers shook hands. Thus, "Union" County.

Wolfe selected the site for a county seat on 20 acres of land owned by Grammer. He named it after Preacher Jones.

The settlers who came were an uneducated lot for the most part and quite superstitious.

The Illinois Central R.R., which laid tracks within two miles of Jonesboro in the early 1850s, ran into superstition trouble. A drought occurred and outraged settlers blamed the telegraph lines along the tracks for robbing the skies of electricity.

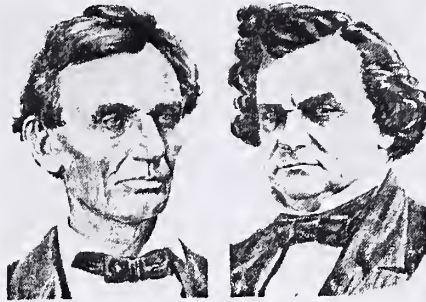
The railroad bypassed Jonesboro in the first place because the townfolk did not want to spend \$50 for a land survey.

One of Jonesboro's local merchants, Winstead Davie, had the foresight to realize what a railroad would mean and he laid out a town around Jonesboro Station, naming it for his wife, Anna.

An Age Of Dark Violence

Davie was crippled from birth but refused to let his handicap defeat him. He educated himself and in 1817, migrated to Jonesboro from Dover, Tenn.

He was not a violent man, however, like so many other of the early settlers. Lynchings occurred occasionally. Less than



ABRAHAM LINCOLN STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS

Portraits by W. T. Terry III. Courtesy Chicago Historical Society.

15 years before the 1858 debate, armed bands from Kentucky had seized a sheriff's posse in Massac County, Ill., drowning the captives.

No wonder, then, that the pro-Republican Chicago Journal noted with alarm "whispers of a proposed attempt on the part of Missourians and Kentuckians, who are coming over to shout for Douglas, to 'put down' Lincoln." There were, in fact, few Republicans in Union County (which still is a Democratic stronghold).

Lincoln did have a few friends, though. He spent the night with David L. Phillips, attorney and land agent for the IC.

The night before the debate, the Little Giant spoke and parted in Cairo.

Lincoln, meanwhile, arrived at Jonesboro Station aboard the IC and went to Phillips' home for supper. Later, he visited with newsmen at a hotel in Jonesboro.

The morning of the debate, Lincoln and Phillips took a ride to Willard's Landing, 25 miles away on the banks of the Mississippi River.

Douglas that morning started from Cairo for Jonesboro Station aboard the IC in his private railroad car. A band led by Prof. Joseph E. Terpinz, a Jonesboro jeweler and musician, accompanied him.

Lincoln's Quips Win Laughter

There was no parade to the Jonesboro fairgrounds where a plank platform without a railing had been erected atop rough logs in the shade of a large oak tree.

Lincoln tried to make friends with the crowd, meager as it was. He declared:

"Why, I know this people better than he [Douglas] does. I was raised just a little east of here. I am part of this people. But the judge was raised further north and perhaps he has some horrid idea of what this people might be induced to do." (Roars of laughter and cheers.)

Douglas, who was born in Vermont, countered: "My friends, Vermont is the most glorious spot on the face of this globe for a man to be born in provided he emigrates when he is very young." (Uproarious shouts of laughter.)

Lincoln also sought to appease the local residents when he



In re-enactment of Jonesboro debate, Neal Claussen, portraying Lincoln, addresses crowd as Richard Rieke (back to camera), portraying Douglas, sits on platform. (Photo for Sun-Times by Mrs. Geneva Wiggs)

asserted that he would let slavery alone in states where it already existed.

After the debate, he spent another night with Phillips before leaving for Centralia. Douglas left for Benton.

In November, William A. Hacker, leader of the Douglas faction, was elected to the General Assembly, defeating John S. Hunsaker, head of the Buchanan Democrats.

Phillips was seeking office then, too, but was defeated. However, during the Civil War, Lincoln appointed him U.S. marshal for the Southern District of Illinois.

Area Feared With 'Copperheads'

His reward probably was not a good one. The area abounded with southern sympathizers known as "Copperheads" or Knights of the Golden Circle.

The area had the 109th Regiment of Illinois Volunteers raised in the area had to be disbanded in 1863. Army records state that 237 men had deserted while others were ready to surrender to the rebels.

This was the atmosphere, then, in which the great debate was re-enacted. Lincoln was portrayed by Neal Claussen, 25, of Petersburg, which is just around a bend in the Sangamon River from New Salem.

Douglas's part was taken by Richard Rieke, director of forensics at Ohio State University. Both were Southern Illinois University debaters.

Because so much of the debate text is no longer of general interest, the three-hour speeches were shortened to 45 minutes.

But in 1858, they were important. The two debaters hastened to Charleston in Coles County where they would meet on Sept. 18. Lincoln's relatives, including his stepmother, lived near there yet most of the residents were old-line Whigs. How would Lincoln appeal to them?

How Reporter Viewed '58 Debate

100th Anniversary

Monday is the 100th anniversary of the third Lincoln-Douglas debate. In their first venture into southern Illinois, the rival candidates for the U.S. Senate met at Jonesboro Sept. 15, 1858. This is a condensed version of a dispatch to the Chicago Journal of Sept. 17, 1858, reprinted in the Alton Weekly Courier of Sept. 23, 1858.

JONESBORO, Sept. 15, 1858.—The first debate in "Egypt," between Douglas and Lincoln, took place here today. As compared with audiences they had at Ottawa and Freeport, the crowd was small, and lacking in enthusiasm. There were not two thousand people in attendance. There is no enthusiasm—no excitement, in this region, for Douglas.

There was no cheering—no anything as Douglas's train arrived.

About 2 o'clock, the crowd gathered in a grove nearby and the debate commenced.

Mr. Douglas opened by attempting to prove that in 1850, and prior to 1854, the National Whig party and the National Democratic party stood upon a common platform regarding the subject of Slavery. But that in 1854, some of the disappointed leaders of both parties combined to break up both the Democratic party and the Whig party, and consequently inaugurated the "Black Republican" or ab-

lition organization, making hostility to the rights, interests and institutions of the Slave States the great issue of their movements, and forcing into being sectional warfare.

Charges 'Combinae'

In Illinois, Lincoln and Trumbull united into combination to inaugurate the same movement, a bargain having been previously made that Lincoln and Trumbull should be made Senators by the arrangement.

Douglas quoted from Mr. Lincoln's speech, made at the Republican State Convention at Springfield in regard to "a house being divided against itself," not being able to stand, and at-

tempted to show that Lincoln was in favor of the dissolution of the Union.

Three cheers were given for Lincoln when he arose, and that gentleman then proceeded, saying that he most cordially approved of Mr. Douglas's sentiments in regard to the "State Rights" and "State Sovereignty," and that he had tried long and often to induce Douglas to believe that he Lincoln never had entertained any sentiments on this subject other than every State in the Union has the right to attend to its own affairs.

Asks Curb On Slavery

He then replied to Douglas's strictures and charges in regard to uniformity? "Judge Doug-

las asks," he said, "why we do not leave the Union as our fathers under us?" "That is, Judge, is what I desire to do. Our fathers when they formed the Government were of the opinion that slavery was in the course of ultimate extinction, and we believed it is our duty to bring the country back to that belief—to limit slavery in its present limits by keeping it out of the new territories to change this wise policy of our fathers, Douglas has been principally instrumental.

In regard to the charge of a "combination" between himself, Trumbull and the Abolitionists, he said that here is not a word of truth in it.

He agreed with Judge Douglas that there must of necessity be a diversity of institutions and interests in the several States; but that regarding the slavery question, it must either be decided for or against its extension. The agitation will never cease until this is settled on some reliable basis, Lincoln said.





